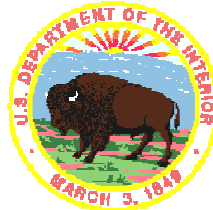




BLM News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Vale District Office
100 Oregon Street, Vale, Oregon 97918-9630
<http://www.or.blm.gov/Vale/>



For Immediate Release

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Bureau of Land Management Looking for a Few Good Firefighters

Vale OR, March 1, 2001– Recently, Vale District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire officials visited local area high schools. The District wants to recruit future graduates for approximately 70 seasonal/temporary firefighting positions for summer 2001. Most positions being offered are entry level on various firefighting crews such as, wildland fire engines, twenty person hand crews known as “Hotshots,” and on Helitack, a nine-person crew assigned to a helicopter.

According to Brian Rindlisbacher, Fire Operations Supervisor for the Vale District BLM, “We’re hoping to entice students by offering a great job with decent starting wages.” There are very few summer jobs young people qualify for that start at \$8.40 per hour. It only takes one good summer fighting fire for graduates to realize they could help pay for their college education by working a few months every year. “The work schedule is compatible with college schedules,” added Rindlisbacher. “If employment works out well for the District and the student, it can be a summer job they can return to year after year.”

Kent Holcomb, Agricultural Representative from the Oregon Employment Department in Ontario, acts as a clearing house for the Vale District BLM, by reviewing the applications first. He rates the applicants based on their experience, and then he forwards them to the District for selection. “It is extremely important for applicants to include all their work history,” explains Kent. “Be specific, explain what kind of work you did, what type of machinery you know how to operate, and how long you’ve held the job. Your experience may mean an extra dollar an hour in some cases.” Applicants can gain lifelong skills in team work and responsibility, and the job will help build self esteem and self reliance.

Anyone interested in firefighting positions at the Vale District Bureau of Land Management can still submit an application to the Oregon Employment Department in Ontario. The only requirements are applicants must be 18 years old and a U.S. citizen. The deadline for applying is May 15, 2001, we encourage applicants to apply as soon as possible.

For more information contact the Oregon Employment Department at (541) 889-5394, the Baker BLM office (541) 523-1256, the Vale District office at (541)-473-6200, or visit www.or.blm.gov/vale or www.usajobs.opm.gov

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Media Advisory

Photos attached to this file are of some of the high schools visited. Each is labeled appropriately. For those that receive this news release by fax you can view photos on the Vale District BLM web page at: www.or.blm.gov/vale under 2001 news releases. Photo descriptions are as follows:

1Baker: Jason Simmons (left) and Brian Rindlsbacher (right) from the Bureau of Land Management talk to Baker Seniors about summer employment opportunities.

2Fruitland: Fruitland High School Seniors listen to a presentation from the Bureau of Land Management highlighting summer employment opportunities.

3New Plymouth: New Plymouth Seniors listen to a presentation from the Bureau of Land Management highlighting summer employment opportunities.

4Ontario: Kent Holcomb, Oregon Employment Department (left) and Brian Rindlsbacher, Bureau of Land Management, talk to Nyssa High School Seniors about summer employment opportunities.

5Ontario: Kent Holcomb, Oregon Employment Department (left) and Brian Rindlsbacher, Bureau of Land Management, talk to Ontario High School Seniors about summer employment opportunities.

6Vale: Brian Rindlsbacher, Bureau of Land Management, talks to Vale High School Seniors about summer employment opportunities.

PLEASE NOTE: The Vale District is in the process of transforming the news release fax list to e-mail. We foresee multiple benefits from using e-mail as we can attach additional graphic files. We would like to convert as many fax numbers as possible. We realize that some media may not be set up to receive news releases through e-mail and we will continue to fax to those groups and make the same graphics available on the District web page.

Please take the time to fill out the form below and send it back to the District with your e-mail address.

The Vale District fax number is: 541-473-6213

Call numbers, or company name _____

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If you have any questions please call at (541) 473-6205

Thank you,

Venetia Gempler

Public Affairs, Vale District, BLM